BBC Learning English Words in the News 4thth March 2009





On the second day of his visit to Washington DC, the UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown will tell both Houses of the United States Congress that 'now more than ever the rest of the world wants to work with America'. Nick Robinson reports:

Now that Barack Obama appears **to be on side**, Gordon Brown will **seek to woo** the men and women whose support the new President needs if he is **to live up to his promise** to make **globalisation** work for ordinary men and women.

Mr Brown is only the fifth British Prime Minister **to be granted the honour** of speaking to both **Houses of Congress**. His message to them is that 'never before have the benefits of international cooperation been so far-reaching'. He will tell the assembled Senators and Congressmen that they have the chance to work with the 'most pro-American European leadership in living memory'.

The Prime Minister is unlikely to repeat his insistence that the economic crisis began here in America. In an interview with the BBC he insists that he'd not been **wrong-footed** by the Chancellor's public call for a show of 'humility' and the acceptance of what he called 'collective responsibility' for what had gone wrong in the financial system.

Mr Brown will leave the United States later today rather envious of the **room for manoeuvre** his host enjoys as a new leader compared with the pressure he feels as someone who's been **at the economic helm** for more than a decade.

Nick Robinson, BBC News, Washington DC

Vocabulary and definitions

to be on side	(Barak Obama) is giving his support (to Gordon Brown)
seek to woo	try to gain approval and respect from
to live up to his promise	to do what he said he would
globalisation	the increase of trade and the movement of workforce
	around the world, especially by big companies
to be granted the honour	to be given the chance to do something very important
Houses of Congress	members of the elected US government who sit in separate
	buildings ('the Senate' and 'the House of Representatives')
wrong-footed	placed in a disadvantaged position by someone else who
	has acted unexpectedly
humility	lacking pride, being humble
room for manoeuvre	opportunity to try out new policies and ideas
at the economic helm	in charge of financial matters

More on this story: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7922426.stm

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/language/wordsinthenews/2009/03/090304_witn_brown.shtml